

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA**

PAUL CASTONGUAY, SR.,

Plaintiff,

v.

CHELSEA SAYLES,

Defendant.

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CASE NO. 8:09CV317

**MEMORANDUM
AND ORDER**

This matter is before the court on Plaintiff's Motion to Amend (Filing No. [17](#)) and Motion for Leave to Appeal In Forma Pauperis ("IFP") (Filing No. [16](#)).

I. Motion to Amend

Plaintiff has filed a Motion to Amend, which the court liberally construes as a Motion for Reconsideration. (Filing No. [17](#).) In this Motion, Plaintiff reargues the merits of his case, a case that the court dismissed on December 3, 2009, due to Plaintiff's lack of standing. (Filing Nos. [7](#) and [8](#).) The court has carefully reviewed the record and finds no good cause to reconsider its previous Memorandum and Order.

II. Leave to Appeal In Forma Pauperis

Plaintiff also seeks leave to appeal IFP. (Filing No. [16](#).) As discussed above, the court dismissed Plaintiff's claims and entered judgment against Plaintiff on December 3, 2009. (Filing Nos. [7](#) and [8](#).) Thereafter, Plaintiff filed a timely Notice of Appeal of the court's Judgment. (Filing No. [14](#).) Plaintiff is a prisoner and has previously been granted leave to proceed IFP in this matter. (Filing No. [6](#).)

As set forth in [Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 24\(a\)\(3\)](#):

(a) Leave to Proceed in Forma Pauperis

(3) Prior Approval. A party who was permitted to proceed in forma pauperis in the district-court action, or who was determined to be

financially unable to obtain an adequate defense in a criminal case, may proceed on appeal in forma pauperis without further authorization, unless the district court – before or after the notice of appeal is filed– certifies that the appeal is not taken in good faith or finds that the party is not otherwise entitled to proceed in forma pauperis. In that event, the district court must state in writing its reasons for the certification or finding.

The court finds that because Plaintiff proceeded IFP in the district court, he may now “proceed on appeal in forma pauperis without further authorization.” *Id.*

However, pursuant to the Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”), a prisoner plaintiff is required to pay the full amount of the court’s \$455.00 appellate filing fee by making monthly payments to the court, even if the prisoner is proceeding IFP. [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)](#). The PLRA “makes prisoners responsible for their filing fees the moment the prisoner brings a civil action or files an appeal.” [Jackson v. N.P. Dodge Realty Co., 173 F. Supp. 2d 951 \(D. Neb. 2001\)](#) (citing [In re Tyler, 110 F.3d 528, 529 \(8th Cir. 1997\)](#)). The appellate filing fee is assessed when the district court receives the prisoner’s notice of appeal. [Henderson v. Norris, 129 F.3d 481, 485 \(8th Cir. 1997\)](#).

Pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)\(1\)](#), Plaintiff must pay an initial partial filing fee in the amount of 20 percent of the greater of Plaintiff’s average monthly account balance or average monthly deposits for the six months preceding the filing of the complaint.

Here, Plaintiff’s trust account balance is \$0.00, so the court cannot assess an initial partial filing fee. (Filing No. [3](#).) However, as set forth in [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)\(4\)](#), “[i]n no event shall a prisoner be prohibited from bringing a civil action . . . for the reason that the prisoner has no assets and no means by which to pay the initial partial filing fee.” When the prisoner is unable to pay the initial partial filing fee due to a lack of funds, the requirement that the initial partial filing fee will be paid at the outset of the case is

suspended. See [Jackson, 173 F. Supp. 2d at 957 n.9](#). Instead, “the whole of the . . . filing fees are to be collected and paid by the installment method contained in § 1915(b)(2).” [Henderson v. Norris, 129 F.3d 481, 484 \(8th Cir. 1997\)](#). Therefore, Plaintiff may proceed without payment of the initial partial filing fee as set forth below.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Plaintiff’s Motion for Leave to Appeal IFP (Filing No. [16](#)) is granted. The filing fee shall be collected and remitted, as funds exist, in the manner set forth in [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)\(2\)](#). Until the full filing fee of \$455.00 is paid, the prisoner shall be obligated to pay, and the agency having custody of the prisoner shall forward to the Clerk of the court, 20 percent of the preceding month’s income in such months as the account exceeds \$10.00;
2. The Clerk of the court shall serve a copy of this order on the appropriate financial officer at Plaintiff’s current institution;
3. The Clerk of the court shall also provide the Court of Appeals with a copy of this Memorandum and Order; and
4. Plaintiff’s Motion for Reconsideration (Filing No. [17](#)) is denied.

DATED this 14th day of January, 2010.

BY THE COURT:

s/Laurie Smith Camp
United States District Judge

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